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SERIAL NO.: NEW

DEC 10 2001

**PETITIONS OFFICE** On November 19, 2001, I received a notice from the USPS indicating that the above-identified Express Mail package was not delivered to the addressee because express mail service was temporarily suspended at the Washington, DC post office. I subsequently received the actual package from the USPS on November 20, 2001. An inspection of the mailing label indicates that the USPS received the package on November 16, 2001. The USPS had also apparently attempted to deliver the package to the Washington, DC post office on November 16<sup>th</sup>, November 17<sup>th</sup> and November 19<sup>th</sup>. The time of the delivery attempts were also noted on the mailing label. The notations on the label clearly indicate that the package was deposited in an "Express Mail" drop box on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

I obtained a printout of the USPS' Product Tracking System to demonstrate that the package was deposited on November 16, 2001. As can be seen from the enclosed Product Tracking System Record, the package was "returned to sender" on November 16, 2001. The evidence therefore indicates that the package was in the control of the USPS as of November 16, 2001. I therefore request that the above-identified application be accorded a filing date of November 16, 2001.

The undersigned hereby declares that all statements made herein are based upon knowledge are true, and that all statements based upon information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

If there are any outstanding matters regarding this Petition, please contact the undersigned at (714) 708-8555 in the Southern California area.

DEC. 10. 2001 1:54PM

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NO. 9265 P. 16

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By:

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Lori Tillman

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LRS/lt

Attachments

Certificate of Transmission  
I hereby Certify that this correspondence is being  
facsimile transmitted to the Patent and  
Trademark Office.  
On December 10, 2001  
Kalpana Reddy Date  
KALPANA REDDY Signature  
Typed or printed name of person signing